Streamlining the contract labour system

1313. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to streamline the existing contract labour system with its economic liberalisation policy;

(b) whether 13 Members Task Force headed by Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia has submitted its report to Government in this regard;

(c) if so, what are its main recommendations on "Employment opportunities"; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation pertaining to the Contract Labour (Regulation and Employment) and conditions of Service Bill during the ensuing Session of Parliament so that the country becomes more competitive in export and domestic markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (d) In the wake of economic liberalization as well as judgements of various Courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made, if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, have not yet been finalized.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

Statement

Proposed strategy for employment generation recommended by Task Force

The salient feature of the proposed strategy for employment generation recommended by the Task Force is as under:—

(i) Accelerating the rate of growth of GDP, with particular emphasis on sectors likely to ensure the spread of income to the low-income segments for the labour force.

(ii) Pursuing appropriate sectoral policies in individual sectors which are particularly important for employment generation. These sector level policies must be broadly consistent with the overall objective of accelerating GDP growth.

(iii) Implementing focused special programmes for creating additional employment for enhancing income generation from existing activities aimed at helping vulnerable groups that may not be sufficiently benefited by the more general growth promoting policies.

(iv) Pursuing suitable policies for education and skill development, which would upgrade the quality of the labour force and make it capable of supporting a growth process which generates high quality jobs.

(v) Ensuring that the policy and legal environment governing the labour market encourages labour absorption, especially in the organized sector.

Bonded labourers

1314. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the 89th International Labour Congress held in Geneva recently, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu had admitted prevalance of bonded labour or forced labour despite sustained efforts to eradicate the same; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) During the 89th Session of the International Labour Conference, held in June 2001, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) organised a Seminar on 14th June, 2001 on "Practical Approaches to Bonded Labour in India", as a "side event". The representatives from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu participated in this event, wherein they indicated the efforts made to